

NSA

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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FEB -7 P 4:40

NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM.

James T. Kuwada
5601 Sierra Avenue
Richmond, CA 94805-1905
Phone/Fax: (510) 232-8145
e-mail: jtkuwada@msn.com

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

FEB 27 PM 3:01

February 2, 2001

NHTSA-01-8876-3

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Petition To Recall

RECEIVED
FEB 12 AM 10:39
OFFICE OF THE
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION

Dear Administrator:

The action of American Honda Motor Co., Inc. has prompted me to write you this letter to seek your support for a vehicle recall.

The seal on the modulator for the anti-lock braking system began to leak oil, so I took the car to the Honda Service Department for an estimate of what the repair would cost. I was informed that the repair would cost \$1,100. I stopped the repair, and wrote a letter to American Honda stating that the repair should be done under warrantee or recall because the design and/or the materials of fabrication must be defective.

I received a letter from American Honda stating that because I was a good customer, they would pay for half the cost of the repair. That statement in the letter reminded me of how Mitsubishi Motors managed for 20 years to keep information about design defects from Government Regulators by negotiating settlements on a case-by-case basis with those individual car owners who bothered to complain about the repair cost. Therefore, I refused to accept American Honda's offer to pay for half the repair cost.

Meanwhile, I received the attached letter, "Product Update Campaign: Engine Oil Leak", from American Honda. The letter states that the balancer shaft oil seal can back itself out (euphemism for it can be blown out, dump the oil and damage the engine), so the car owner should make arrangements with the Honda Dealer to have a retainer installed, free of charge. The letter states that, "this offer applies until January 1, 2003".

CC# 3275

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Administrator, NHTSA
February 2, 2001
Page 2.

I should like your support in persuading American Honda that it should make the same offer to repair the oil seal on the ABS modulator, free of charge, because that failure also must be due to a defect in the basic design, materials of fabrication, or workmanship.

American Honda had taken the position with me earlier that the warrantee period for repair of the ABS modulator had expired; however, its willingness to install the retainer, free of charge, for a period up to January 1, 2003 belies its earlier statements to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.T. Kunal", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Enclosure: Cited letter from Honda

pc: Congressman George Miller



AUTOMOBILE DIVISION
AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
1919 Torrance Blvd., - P.O. Box 2215
Torrance, CA 90509-9869

November 2000

Product Update Campaign: Engine Oil Leak

Dear Honda Owner:

We have sent this letter to notify you of a potential problem with your Honda vehicle.

What is the problem?

The balancer shaft oil seal, located in the front of the engine, may back out over time. If this happens, the oil can be rapidly pumped out of the engine without warning, causing serious engine damage if you continue to drive.

What should you do?

Call any authorized Honda dealer and make an appointment to have your vehicle repaired. They will install a retainer that prevents the seal from backing out. *This repair will be done free of charge.* This applies until January 1, 2003. After that date, installation of a retainer or repairs required due to a failed oil seal are at your own expense.

What if you had this repaired previously?

Even if you are certain you had a balancer shaft oil seal replaced sometime in the past, contact an authorized Honda dealer and make an appointment. They will inspect your vehicle, and install a retainer if one has not already been installed. You are also eligible for reimbursement for the cost of the previous oil seal replacement. Refer to the enclosed *Request For Reimbursement* form for the requirements.

What to do if you feel this notice is in error.

Our records show that you are the current owner of a Honda vehicle involved in this campaign. If this is not the case, or the name/address information is incorrect, please fill out and return the enclosed, postage-paid *Information Change Card*. We will then update our records.

If you have questions.

If you have any questions about this notice, or need assistance with contacting a Honda dealer, please call the Honda Consumer Affairs Department at (800) 999-1009.

Thank you for your cooperation. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.
Honda Automobile Division